

## Bishop Brennan Ordains 20 Permanent Deacons in Historic Ordination for Diocese



Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan ordains Deacon William Klug of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville to the diaconate at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston June 7. Deacon Klug was one of 20 men ordained permanent deacons (many of them pictured at right) that day for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

#### By Colleen Rowan

n a historic day for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Bishop Mark Brennan ordained 20 men as permanent deacons for ministry in West Virginia and an additional two men as transitional deacons for the Glenmary Home Missioners. Fittingly celebrated on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 7), the bishop said, a feast "which pro-

claims Christ's love for us," the ordination drew faithful from all over who filled the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

"The diaconate and this feast are intimately connected since the Lord's heart beats with an inextinguishable love for his people," the bishop said. "And deacons, in their varied ministries, are vehicles of his love."

This was the first ordination of permanent

deacons for the diocese in eight years and the only one with 20 candidates, who processed into the basilica co-cathedral with their wives. Also present for the ordination were the deacons' families as well as priests, deacons, religious, and seminarians.

God has called the deacons from all corners of the state, Bishop Brennan said in his homily, **See "Ordination" on Page 3** 



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## Pope to Hold Consistory July 1 on Canonization of Carlo Acutis, Others

**By Catholic News Service** 

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Although Pope Francis usually takes the month of July off — except for leading the recitation of the Angelus on Sundays — he will hold a consistory with cardinals in Rome July 1 for the final approval of the canonization of several sainthood candidates, according to the master of papal liturgical ceremonies.

In late May, the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints said Pope Francis would be convoking the meeting of cardinals to vote on approving the canonizations of Blessed Carlo Acutis, an Italian teen and computer whiz; Blessed Giuseppe Alla-

mano, founder of the Consolata Missionaries; eight Franciscan friars and three Maronite laymen who were martyred in Syria in 1860; Canada-born Blessed Marie-Léonie Paradis, founder of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family; and Blessed Elena Guerra, an Italian nun who founded the Oblates of the Holy Spirit.

The date or dates for the canonizations could be announced during the ceremony.

The July 1 appointment for the consistory was among the events listed on the pope's schedule for June through September and published June 3 by Archbishop Diego Ravelli, master of papal liturgical ceremonies. Events or

even trips that do not include a Mass or prayer service are not included on the archbishop's list.

The schedule begins with the celebration of a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. During the Mass, the pope will bless the palliums, woolen stoles worn by the heads of archdioceses, and give them to archbishops named in the past year.

Pope Francis will travel to Trieste in northern Italy July 7.

He will visit Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Singapore Sept. 2-13.

And he will travel again Sept. 26-29, visiting Luxembourg and Belgium.

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishop abuse.org. To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement: numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. In accordance with these requirements, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer, directly or indirectly, with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese's Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information , go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Co**ordinator:** please call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and inof Health and Human Resources: formation: WV Department https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

#### The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2024

(Digital issues will continue to be published by date every Friday, delivered by e-mail and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org)

This is the new print publication schedule for The Catholic Spirit. Each print issue is named for a memorial, feast day, or celebration of the Church within the month of publication. The following provides the name of the issue; the date of the memorial, feast day, or celebration; and the publication date of the issue.

#### Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Month of June

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is June 28

#### Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast Day, August 15

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is August 2

#### **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

Feast Day, September 14

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is September 6

#### **Our Lady of the Rosary**

Memorial, October 7

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is October 4

#### Advent

First Sunday of Advent, December 1 The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is November 21

#### Christmas

Feast Day, December 25 The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is December 20

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#### Ordination...

#### Cont'd from Page 1

announcing that he was appointing them as permanent deacons at their home parishes. Many of them have been appointed to more than one parish (see full appointments on Page 6 of this issue).

The following are the newly ordained deacons for the diocese and their home parishes: Deacon William Richard Allen, II of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley, Deacon John Anthony Basil of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Weirton, Deacon Emarjun Capuno Brucal of Sacred Heart Parish in Williamson, Deacon Michael Allen Brumley of St. Patrick Parish in Weston, Deacon John David Butler of St. Matthew Parish in Ravenswood, Deacon Victor Francis Cwynar, Jr. of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg, Deacon Michael Anthony Kawash of the basilica co-cathedral, Deacon William Joseph Klug of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville, Deacon Robert Joseph Krall of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling, Deacon Jacob Andrew Manning of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, Deacon James David McCullough of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Stonewood, Deacon Thomas Joseph McFadden of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling, Deacon Patrick Francis Michel of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg, Deacon Jason Scott Miller of St. Paul Parish in Weirton, Deacon Anthony Michael O'Leary of Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston, Deacon Ronald Piaskowski of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Huntington, Deacon Tommy Bryan Ross also of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Deacon Aaron Nicholas Talbott of St. Brendan Parish in Elkins, Deacon Bryce Burl Timberlake of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town, and Deacon David Andrew Torlone of St. Leo Parish in Inwood.

Deacon Joseph Maundu and Deacon Calvine Okello, ordained for Glenmary, are from Kenya.

The Rite of Ordination began with the Election of the Candidates as each were called by name.

The heart of the diaconate is service, Bishop Brennan said in his homily.

"It's not so much an honor as a call to imitate the Lord Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve," he said. "To put himself last and others first."

Along with visiting the sick and the imprisoned, assisting the poor, and listening to people who are beset by various kinds of troubles, deacons also proclaim the gospel, preach and teach God's word, and celebrate some of the sacraments, the bishop said.

The ministry of the first deacons was feeding hungry widows. The bishop said St. Stephen (a deacon) was soon charged to proclaim



Colleen Rowan Photo

The 20 permanent deacons and two transitional deacons prostrate themselves before the altar during their ordination at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston June 7.

Christ as the Messiah, and St. Philip (a deacon) baptized the Ethiopian eunuch who had come to the faith.

"Be aware deacon candidates that when you stand at the altar assisting the priest, you are an icon of the unity of faith and charity," Bishop Brennan said. "Faith and charity cannot be separated. In your very person you will live that unity and represent it for your people."

While they are being assigned to their home parishes, Bishop Bren-

nan told the deacon candidates that he or his successors may call upon them for a broader diocesan ministry.

"There are prisons, hospitals, schools, and many works of charity and justice that fall under the diocesan umbrella in West Virginia and some deacons already are involved in those broader ministries," the bishop said. "You who are to be ordained might well be called upon also to engage in them."

In their parish ministry, the bishop urged them to respect and

cooperate with the pastor or administrator. At the same time, he encouraged pastors and administrators to work with deacons, giving them work but to work with them in a spirit of fraternal charity and real collaboration. He further urged priests who will receive new deacons and priests who already have deacons serving at their parishes to understand that the sacrament of marriage is the deacon's first way of living out his baptismal vocation to

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#### **Ordination...**

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service and must remain healthy and life giving in order for the husband to render effective diaconal ministry.

"So, when marital or family time is needed, pastors be understanding of your deacon's situation," the bishop said. "A deacon may sometimes be asked to respond to a serious pastoral need even when inconvenient for the family. I'd ask that the wives and children to understand that serving when it is not convenient is part of carrying our cross for others as the Lord Jesus carried his for us. I commend you, wives and children, for the support you have already shown husbands your fathers."

The bishop urged the candidates to be ordained to the diaconate, to turn to the Lord for the strength to offer faithful service to God and his people. He pointed to the responsorial psalm for the Mass: "My strength



Colleen Rowan Photo Deacon Ronald Piaskowski and his wife Loretta of Our Lady of Fa-



Colleen Rowan Photo

Several of the newly ordained deacons are pictured during their ordination.

and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior" (Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6).

The bishop urged the men to find time for prayer each day both in the Liturgy of the Hours and private prayer and to know that the Lord loves them. As the prophet Hosea said of God's love for Israel, "When Israel was a child I loved him, out of Egypt I called my son" (Hos 11:1,3-4,8c-9).

The bishop told the deacon candidates that the Lord has called them, "because he loves you and he invites you to share as deacons in his shepherding of his people. Hosea's words about the Israelites then apply to you too: 'I drew them with human cords, with bands of love; I fostered them like one who raises an infant to his cheeks'" (Hos 11:1,3-4,8c-9).

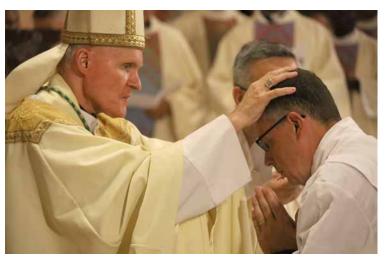
The bishop encouraged them to find strength for all aspects of their Christian life in faithful prayer and reflection on God's word.

"It will make you a better husband, a better father, and a good deacon," he said. St. Paul, he added, rejoiced that God had called him "to preach to the Gentiles the inscrutable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for all what is the plan of the mystery

hidden from ages past in God who created all things, so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church..." (Eph 3:8-12, 14-19).

#### See "Ordination" on Page 5

At right: Deacon Anthony
O'Leary of Blessed Sacrament
Parish in South Charleston
receives the Book of Gospels
from Bishop Brennan during
his ordination.
Colleen Rowan Photo



Colleen Rowan Photo Bishop Brennan ordains Deacon Michael Brumley of St. Patrick Parish in Weston.



**Colleen Rowan Photo** 

Deacon Richard Allen, II of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley is vested by his wife Julie, right, and Deacon Harry Evans, also of St. Francis de Sales.



**Colleen Rowan Photo** 

Deacon Michael Kawash of the basilica co-cathedral, left, receives the Kiss of Peace from Deacon David Galvin of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town.



#### Ordination...

Cont'd from Page 4

"By your direct preaching and teaching and by your indirect preaching of the gospel, through your service to those in need, you will shed light on the mystery of God's immense and enduring love for all people which is the essence of the wisdom of Christ in his gospel," Bishop Brennan said to the deacon candidates. "I hope you will find in Christ our Redeemer, as Paul did and as I have, that boldness of speech and confidence of access through faith in him that will give vigor to your preaching and teaching and affirm trust in the Lord when you pray to him for yourselves, for your families, and for those whom you serve.

"Finally, I make my prayer for you that of Paul: 'I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God'" (Eph 3:8-12, 14-19).

"Deacons to be," the bishop said, "you will experience Christ's love, I pray, in your prayer and worship, in your family life, and in the places where you exercise your diaconate. Fortified by his love, endowed with God's spirit, you will imitate the Lord Jesus who 'went about doing good and freeing those in the grip of the devil, for God was with him' (Acts 10:38). God will be with you too and enable you to do much good for others to the glory of God."

Following the homily, each of the elect came to stand before the bishop and promised to serve the

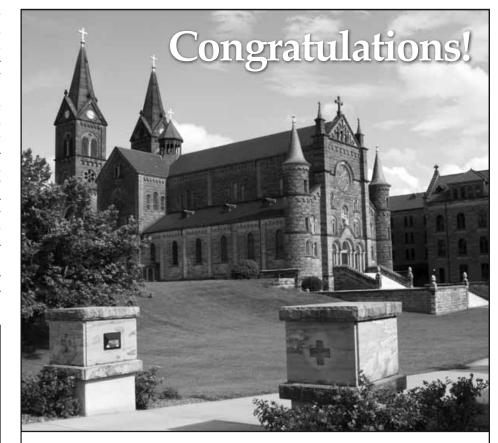


**Colleen Rowan Photo** 

The newly ordained deacons process from the basilica co-cathedral at the end of their ordination June 7.

people of God as deacons. The congregation then kneeled and prayed with the bishop for the men about to be ordained as they prostrated themselves before the altar during the Litany of Supplication. Each of the elect then knelt before the bishop who laid his hands upon their heads and prayed the prayer of ordination. The newly ordained deacons were then vested with the stole and dalmatic by their wives and a chosen priest or deacon. The bishop, followed by their brother deacons, then offered the Kiss of Peace to the newly ordained.

After the ordination, a reception was held at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston.



The monks, students, faculty and Permanent Deacon Formation Office of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology congratulate the new permanent deacons of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Helping with your formation has been a blessing to us.



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#### Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Very Rev. Sebastian E. Devasya, V.E.,** is appointed Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, effective immediately. This appointment is for a period of five years and is made in addition to his current assignment as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield and Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton.

**Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.E., V.F.,** is appointed Associate Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, effective immediately. This appointment is for a period of five years and is made in addition to his current assignments as vicar forane of the Charleston Vicariate and rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

Very Rev. Timothy Grassi, V.F., is reappointed vicar forane of the Martinsburg Vicariate for a period of three years, effective June 23, 2024. This appointment is made in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town.

**Very Rev. Joseph M. Konikat- til, V.F.,** is appointed vicar forane of the Clarksburg Vicariate for a period of three years, effective immediately. This appointment is made in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont.

Very Rev. John S. Ledford, V.F., is reappointed vicar forane of the Wheeling Vicariate for a period of three years, effective immediately. This appointment is made in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. John Parish in Benwood, St. James Parish in McMechen, and St. Jude Parish in Glen Dale.

**Very Rev. John Rice, V.F.,** is appointed vicar forane of the Parkersburg Vicariate for a period of three years, effective June 2, 2024. This appointment is made in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg.

**Very Rev. Leonard A. Smith, V.F.,** is appointed vicar forane of the Beckley Vicariate for a period of three years, effective immediately. This appointment is made in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St.

Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley.

**Very Rev. Walter Jagela, Assoc. V.F.,** is appointed associate vicar forane of the Clarksburg Vicariate for a period of three years, effective immediately. This appointment is made in addition to his current assignment as pastor of All Saints Parish in Bridgeport.

**Father Casey Mahone** is appointed designated pastor of Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg and St. Mary Central School in Clarksburg, effective June 19, 2024. This appointment is made in addition to his current assignment as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg.

**Father John Soplinski** is appointed vice rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Wheeling and parochial vicar of St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling with residence at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish rectory, effective June 19, 2024.

In consultation with Very Rev. Adam Oleszozuk, SVD, provincial superior for the Society of the Divine Word, Chicago Province, Father Lusius Mite, SVD, is appointed parochial vicar of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling with residence at the parish rectory, effective June 6, 2024.

**Deacon Douglas W. Breiding** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective June 19, 2024. This appointment is made in addition to his current assignment as permanent deacon at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

**Deacon William Richard Allen, II** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley and SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Oak Hill and to liturgical ministry at the same parishes, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon John Anthony Basil** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Weirton and Sacred Heart of Mary Parish in Weirton and to liturgical ministry at the same parishes, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Emarjun Capuno Brucal** is appointed permanent deacon at Sacred Heart Parish in Williamson and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Logan and to liturgical ministry at the same parishes, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Michael Allen Brum-ley** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Patrick Parish in Weston and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon John David Butler** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Matthew Parish in Ravenswood and Sacred Heart Mission in Point Pleasant and to liturgical ministry at the same parish and mission, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Victor Francis Cwynar, Jr.** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg and St. Monica Mission in Lubeck and to liturgical ministry at the same parish and mission, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Michael Anthony Kawash** is appointed permanent deacon at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon William Joseph Klug** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville, Mater Dolorosa Parish in Paden City, Holy Rosary Mission in Sistersville, and St. Joseph Mission in Proctor and to liturgical ministry at the same parishes and missions, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Robert Joseph Krall** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Jacob Andrew Manning** is appointed permanent deacon at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling and St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling and to liturgical ministry at the same parishes, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon James David McCullough** is appointed permanent deacon at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Stonewood and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Thomas Joseph McFadden** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling and Our Lady of Seven Dolors Mission in Triadelphia and to liturgical ministry at the same parish and mission, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Patrick Francis Michel** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Jason Scott Miller** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Paul Parish in Weirton and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Anthony Michael O'Leary** is appointed permanent deacon at Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Ronald Piaskowski** is appointed permanent deacon at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Huntington and St. Stephen Parish in Ona and to liturgical ministry at the same parishes, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Tommy Bryan Ross** is appointed permanent deacon at Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Aaron Nicholas Talbott** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Brendan Parish in Elkins and St. Patrick Mission in Coalton and to liturgical ministry at the same parish and mission, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon Bryce Burl Timber-lake** is appointed permanent deacon at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective June 7, 2024.

**Deacon David Andrew Tor-lone** is appointed permanent deacon at St. Leo Parish in Inwood and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective June 7, 2024.







20 Permanent Deacons

recently ordained in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston



#### U.S. Catholics urged to Promote 'Essential Right' of Religious Freedom through Prayer, Action

By OSV News

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — "Called to the Fullness of Dignity" is the theme of this year's Religious Freedom Week of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The observance opens June 22, the feast day of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, both English martyrs who fought religious persecution. The week ends June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, and includes the Nativity of St.

country sadly finds itself in a place where that danger is real," the committee said in its 48page report, "The State of Religious Liberty in the United States," issued in January.

Religious Freedom Week also calls attention to threats to Catholic mini-

stries that serve immi-"In recent years, Christian services to migrants have faced aggressive accusations by both media per-RELIGIOUS

John the Baptist, which is June 24.

Building on this year's annual report by the USCCB's Committee on Religious Liberty, Religious Freedom Week 2024 highlights concerns about attacks on houses of wor-

"There is no greater threat to religious liberty than for one's house of worship to become a place of danger, and the

sonalities and political leaders seeking to advance a certain narrative about immigration trends," said the June 7 USCCB release on the upcoming weeklong observance. "The attacks on both sacred spaces and ministries to migrants reflect the political and cultural polarization that has come to characterize so much of American life."

One recent example of political leaders' aggressive moves against assistance for migrants by churches and other nonprofits is Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's attempt to shut down El Paso's Annunciation House, a Catholic nonprofit serving migrants. A couple of months after Paxton's previous effort was blocked by a judge, his office said May 8 it filed an application for a temporary injunction against Annunciation House, accusing it of "systemic criminal conduct in Texas," including facilitating illegal border crossings or concealing "illegally present aliens from law enforcement." Annunciation House's lawyer said those are false allegations.

In his earlier attempt to shut down Annunciation House, Paxton accused it of "human smuggling," which was denounced by Catholic immigration advocates, including El Paso Bishop Mark J.

The special week "encourages Catholics to do their part to promote civility by recognizing the dignity of all people and inviting others to do the same," the release said, adding that "through prayer, education and public action during Religious Freedom



**OSV News Photo/Bradley Birkholz** 

Sun shines through a statue of Christ on a grave marker alongside an American flag at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Appleton, Wis., in this 2018 photo. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual Religious Freedom Week takes place June 22-29.

Week, the faithful can promote the essential right of religious freedom for Catholics and for those of all faiths.

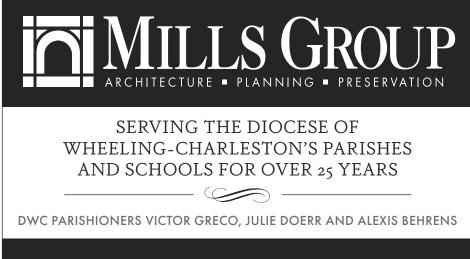
The USCCB provides "Pray-Reflect-Act" resources at www.usccb.org/Religious FreedomWeek. Each day focuses on different religious liberty topics for prayer, reflection and ac-

Once again, the Committee for Religious Liberty, in collaboration with the USCCB Secretariat of Catholic Education and Our Sunday Visitor Institute, hosted a religious liberty essay contest. Contestants were asked to share the story of a witness to freedom — a story of the people who inspire us. The top essays from the competition will be published during Religious Week Freedom www.usccb.org/Religious FreedomWeek.

The committee's 2024 report on "The State of Religious Liberty in the United States," issued in January, can be found https://usccb.cld.bz/ Religious-Liberty-Annual-Report/2.

(Pictured on the left of this page is the logo for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Religious Freedom Week 2024, OSV News photo/courtesy USCCB.)





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# Supreme Court Dismisses Challenge to Abortion Drug Mifepristone

By Kate Scanlon, OSV News

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — The Supreme Court June 13 unanimously dismissed a challenge to mifepristone, a pill commonly used for abortion, finding that the challengers lacked standing to bring the case.

In a unanimous opinion written by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the court found in FDA v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine that the "plaintiffs lack Article III standing to challenge FDA's actions regarding the regulation of mifepristone."

"Plaintiffs are pro-life, oppose elective abortion, and have sincere legal, moral, ideological, and policy objections to mifepristone being prescribed and used by others," Kavanaugh wrote. "Because plaintiffs do not prescribe or use mifepristone, plaintiffs are unregulated parties who seek to challenge FDA's regulation of others."

"Plaintiffs advance several complicated causation theories to connect FDA's actions to the plaintiffs' alleged injuries in fact. None of these theories suffices to establish Article III standing," he added.

The ruling was not unexpected, as during March oral arguments in the case, justices from across the court's ideological spectrum appeared skeptical that the coalition of pro-life doctors challenging the reduced regulations had legal standing to bring the lawsuit, with the question of standing becoming more of a focus than whether the FDA acted lawfully.

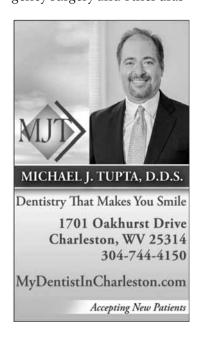
A coalition of pro-life opponents of mifepristone, which is the first of two drugs used in a medication or chemical abortion, filed suit over loosened restrictions on the drug by the Food and Drug Administration, which included making it available by mail, arguing the government violated its own safety standards in doing so.

The FDA argued the drug poses statistically little risk to the mother in the early weeks of pregnancy.

Dr. Ingrid Skop, a board-certified OB-GYN who has practiced in Texas and is a senior fellow and director of medical affairs at the Charlotte Lozier Institute, said in a statement, "It is deeply disappointing that the FDA was not held accountable today

for its reckless decisions."

"As a practicing OB-GYN with over 30 years' experience, I have seen firsthand that mail-order abortion drugs harm my patients, both mothers and their unborn children," she said. "Abortion advocates and corporate media ignore their stories as they shamelessly promote mail-order distribution of dangerous drugs without a single in-person doctor visit. As a tragic result, I expect to see more women need blood transfusions, emergency surgery and other dras-



tic measures and our emergency medical systems overwhelmed. This is not health care, it's abandonment and the pro-life community will never stop advocating for patients."

The case was the first

major case involving abortion on its docket since the high court overturned its previous abortion precedent in 2022.

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)



Walking with Moms in Need is a nationwide, parishbased initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. It works to ensure that any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources she needs. Volunteers walk with moms throughout the motherhood journey, offering them authentic Christian friendship and ongoing support.

#### Click here to learn more

To start this ministry in your parish, contact: Kathleen Barton, Director of Social Ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (304) 3233-0880, Ext. 289; kbarton@dwc.org



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#### Be Part of this Historic Event!

The pilgrimage comes to the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia June 20-24

FROM THE EAST

#### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route



#### Welcome perpetual pilgrims to the Mountain State!

Gather with them for Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic Processions, praise and worship, and special programs as their share their experiences. Watch the Eucharistic Procession on the Ohio River led by Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul J. Bradley and receive a blessing. Pilgrimage events are open to all! Full schedule is on the right.







#### Participating Northern Panhandle Parishes

#### Weirton:

St. Joseph the Worker Sacred Heart of Mary St. Paul's

#### Wheeling:

Cathedral of St. Joseph St. Alphonsus







For more information, visit: www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/st-elizabeth-ann-seton-route

#### Pilgrimage Events

#### Thursday, June 20, National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Kickoff in Weirton

St. Joseph the Worker Church: Meet the perpetual pilgrims and gather for Mass, Adoration, and praise and worship—8-9 a.m.

Eucharistic Procession from St. Joseph the Worker to Sacred Heart of Mary Church with Adoration and Benediction to follow—begins at 9:30 a.m.

Sharing Session & Reflection by Perpetual Pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—11 a.m.-noon

**Eucharistic Adoration** with praise and worship at St. Paul Church—7-8 p.m.

#### Friday, June 21

*Morning Mass* with the perpetual pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—8:30-9 a.m.

**Breakfast with Perpetual Pilgrims** at Sacred Heart of Mary —9:30-10:30 a.m.

#### Sunday, June 23 "Put Out into the Deep" on the Ohio River!"

Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul Bradley, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville, will board a sternwheeler and lead a Eucharistic Procession down the Ohio River. Boatercade with the two bishops leaves the Steubenville Marina at noon and will stop at four sites on both sides of the river where faithful can receive a blessing. Blessing sites: Steubenville Marina, Wellsburg Wharf, Wellsburg-Brilliant Bridge, Mazeroski Park (Ohio), Pike Island Lock and Dam, and Heritage Port in Wheeling. Final destination is Bellaire Marina in Bellaire, Ohio.

Arrival of National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in Wheeling—7:30-8:30 p.m. Cathedral of St. Joseph. Bishop Brennan and the faithful of Wheeling will welcome the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage at the cathedral.

All-Night Eucharistic Prayer Vigil—8:30 p.m (June 23) -8 a.m. (June 24) at the cathedral.

#### Monday, June 24

*Mass at the cathedral* celebrated by Bishop Brennan—8:30-9:30 a.m.

**Solemn Eucharistic Procession** through the streets of Wheeling from the cathedral to St. Alphonsus Church—9:30-10 a.m.

# Charleston Knights to Participate in Event Raising Funds for Childhood Cancer Research

**CHARLESTON** — For the ninth year, Knights of Columbus Council 125630, St. Michael the Archangel, will be supporting the St. Baldrick's Foundation Head Shaving Event. This is the largest private source of childhood cancer research grants in the country.

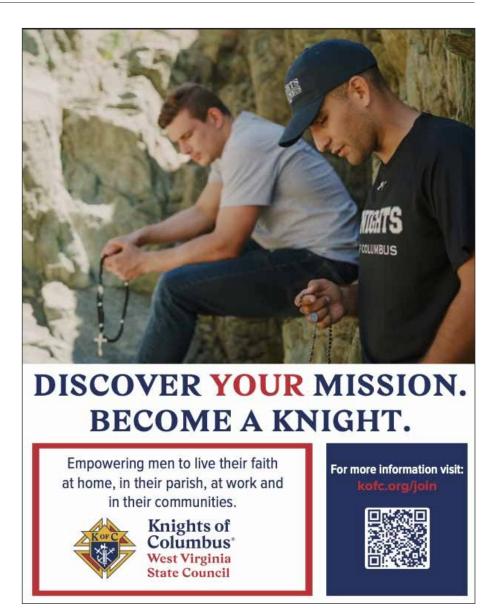
This year is the 25th year for St. Baldrick's events and during that period it has raised approximately \$500 million and funded research grants of approximately \$350 million.

Each year in Charleston, the event has been supported by the council and each year at least two brother knights have volunteered to participate and have their heads shaved to show solidarity with the kids, raise awareness for childhood cancer research, and raising needed funds to improve treatments and ultimately a cure for childhood cancer. In the previous years events, the council has raised over \$185,000 and year to date this year has raised approximately \$25,000.

This year's event will be held on West Virginia Day, June 20, at TOPS OFF Barbers in Charleston.

"Nine years ago, our council was introduced to TOPS OFF by our then grand knight," said council member Bill Coyle. "This year we have four brother knights who will be shaving. Myself, whose son is a 34-year cancer survivor; Micheal Casey, Sacred Heart Scout leader and nine-time shave; Mark Ellis, CCHS (Charleston Catholic High School) faculty member; and first time shavee John Pennington."

To donate or for more about the event, visit:https://www.stbaldricks.org/events/9thAnnual/participants#content



#### Father Bufogle Will be Speaker for Contemplative Prayer Workshop at Wheeling Parish

By Joyce Bibey

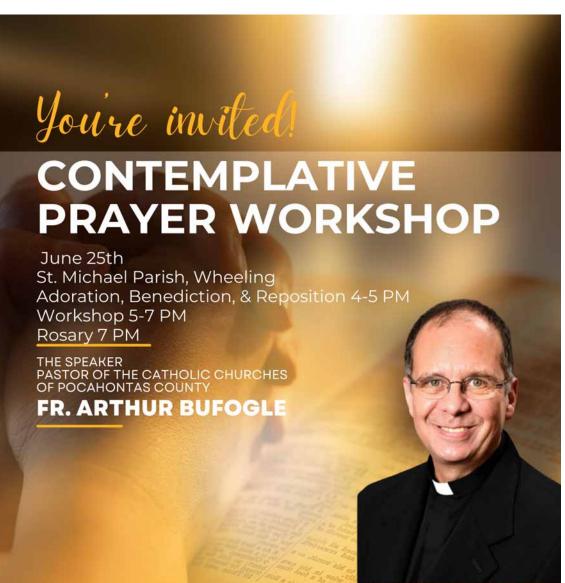
**WHEELING** — St. Michael Parish in Wheeling invites all to attend a Contemplative Prayer Workshop with Father Arthur Bufogle, Jr. on June 25. Beginning with Adoration, Benediction, and Reposition from 4-5 p.m., Father Arthur will guide attendees through a rejuvenating contemplative prayer process. The workshop will conclude with rosary at 7 p.m.

Father Arthur is pastor of the Catholic Churches in Pocahontas County. Born in Brooklyn, New York, he was raised in Tokyo, Japan, and returned to the USA for college. He was a religious brother for 25 years, serving in northern New York State, Mississippi, the Philippines, and then in Clay County, West Virginia.

Father Arthur also spent three years at a Trappist-Cistercian monastery, where contemplative prayer is one of the foundations of the monks' prayer life.

St. Michael's pastor, Father Carlos Melocoton, noted that as the Parish Year of the National Eucharist Revival (NER) comes to a close in July, he and his parishioners are eager to prepare for and enter into the 2025 Year of Prayer as designated by Pope Francis, leading into the jubilee year.

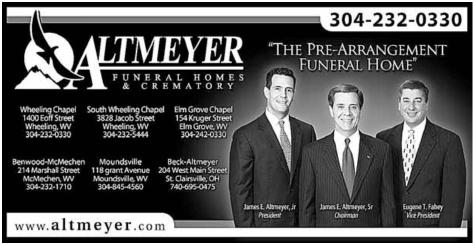
To conclude the parish year for the NER the parish will also be releasing its Eucharistic Voices, a compilation of parishioner Eucharistic testimonies given throughout 2023-2024.

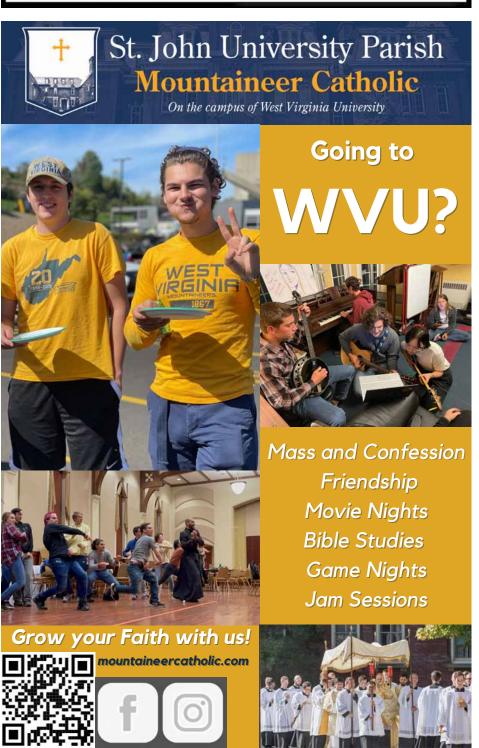


#### Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule; Bishop Brennan, Celebrant

Saturday, June 15: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, June 16:** St. John the Evangelist, Summersville; 9:00 a.m.





## Juneteenth Celebration to be Held in Charleston

**CHARLESTON**— Gov. Jim Justice issued a proclamation, officially declaring Juneteenth 2024 as a State holiday in West Virginia.

Juneteenth, which is recognized on June 19 each year, celebrates the ending of slavery in the United States.

The Juneteenth State holiday this year will be observed on Wednesday, June 19, as a full-day holiday for all public employees of the state. Justice also reminds West Virginians that the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs is hosting a Juneteenth Celebration on the Kanawha Boulevard lawns of the West Virginia Capitol Complex on Sat-

urday, June 15, from 4-9 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Raheem DeVaughn and Glenn Jones will headline performers for the

2024 Juneteenth Celebration.







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#### Wheeling Volunteer Extraordinaire, Quenton Northcraft, Receives a 2024 Governor's Service Award

**WHEELING** — As a retiree, Quenton "Q" Northcraft dedicates the majority of his time to volunteer initiatives in Wheeling. Q's generosity, creativity, and his dedication to the community have touched the lives of many.

On Thursday, June 13, Q Northcraft was to be honored for his dedication to service at the annual Governor's Service Awards dinner at the Culture at the State Center Capitol.

Presented since 1995, the Governor's Service Awards honors individuals and groups that exemplify outstanding dedication to volunteerism and community service in West Virginia. Quenton will receive his award in the Senior Cat-

Q devotes four to five days each week volunteering at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling. He has become a major asset, providing support and guidance to both staff and clients alike. He coordinates resources for the unhoused, delivers meals, mentors, volunteers, organizes the pantry, and boosts community support for the Neighborhood Center. Q is always there to help when a client or staff needs him. His leadership, kindness, and positive demeanor have earned him the respect and admiration of all who know him.

A natural problemsolver and innovator, Q is always coming up with solutions for the Neighborhood Center and the community. Whether it be creating a new bagging system for meal deliveries or organizing the food pantry, he is there to help. When Q learned the unhoused were sleeping on the cold ground near the Neighborhood Center, he reached out to local businesses to have insulated floor pads and solar lights donated. He is always the first one to step up to someone in need, taking clients to medical appointments and job interviews, furnishing apartments, buying clothing, and providing one-on-one skills training.

In addition to his involvement with the Neighborhood Center, Q is actively engaged in various other community initiatives, including volunteering at St. Michael's Church and School and the Mother Jones Center for Resilient Community. He also mentors adults and youth through various community organizations.

The Governor's Service Awards are administered Volunteer West Virginia, the State's Commission for National and Community Service. A volunteer review committee reads and selects the recipients based on achievement, community needs, continuing involvement, creativity, and impact of

Other recipients of the 2024 Governor's Service Awards include, by cate-

- Youth: Isabelle Scarlet Smith-Pounds, Hedgesville
- Adult: Daniel Pan, Morgantown
- Senior: Kathy Easley, Bluefield



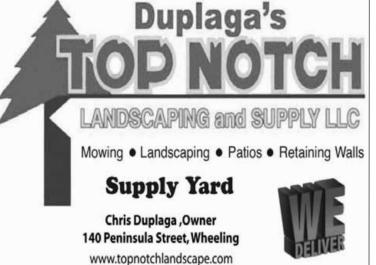


**Courtesy Photo** 

Quenton "Q" Northcraft

Group: Band Brothers, Buckhannon • Group: Robert and

Sharon Selbe, Rupert Volunteer Virginia is an agency of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture & History. The agency challenges West Virginians to strengthen their com-



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Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de ninos: La Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. Tambien alentamos a utilizar www.report bishopabuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuniquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdiccion correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopabuse.org.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuniquese con la policia local; los numeros variaran segun su ubicación. Si cree que alguien esta en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuniquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Proteccion Infantil de Ninos y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la linea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta linea directa si lo prefiere.

**Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diocesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas. ante todo, si se ha come- tido un delito. La diocesis tambien alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiasticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diocesis, comuniquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; o Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. Tambien puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diocesis al 304.230.1504. Tam-

bien puede llamar a la linea directa de abuso sexual de la Diocesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja estan disponibles en linea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diocesis" en la barra de menu, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para de puncies de abuse sevual de menores". El mulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

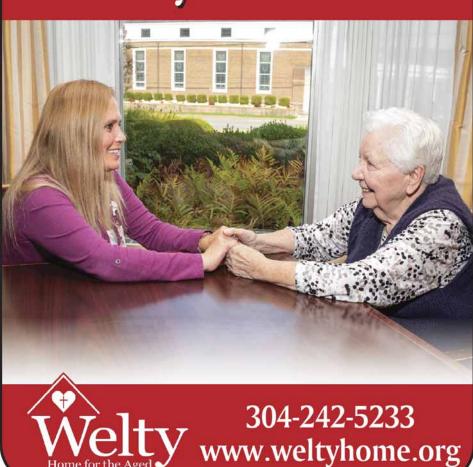
Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Victimas de la Diocesis: llame a la Erin McFarland, M.Ed.,

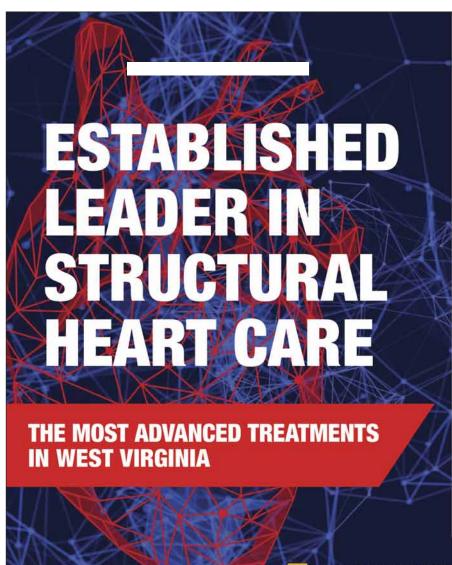
LPC, al 304.559.6742.

Ademas de los metodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diocesis tambien se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a traves de www.dwc.org, en "Rendicion de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida. Enlaces e informacion: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp. Policia Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crimenes contra Ninos: 304-293-6400.

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